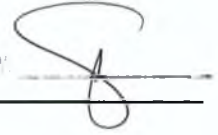


SENATE
P. S. Res No. 386

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CURRENT CAPACITY OF OUR AIRPORTS TO RECEIVE INFLUX OF TRAVELERS AND TOURISTS AS OUR COUNTRY REOPENS ITS BORDERS FOR TOURISM

1 **WHEREAS**, under Republic Act No. 9593 or The Tourism Act of 2009, the
2 State declares tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an
3 industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine
4 of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign
5 exchange, and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national
6 pride for all Filipinos;

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the tourism industry is one of the key contributors to the
9 sustained growth of the Philippine economy. Over the past years, inbound arrivals of
10 foreign tourists in the country grew by almost one hundred percent (100%);

11
12 **WHEREAS**, in 2019, the Department of Tourism (DOT) has recorded eight
13 million two hundred sixty thousand and nine hundred thirteen (8,260,913) arrivals in
14 the country, the highest in a decade. However, despite this big turnout of foreign
15 visitors, from then and until today, our government is still dealing with the issue of
16 our gateway operating beyond its capacity;

17
18 **WHEREAS**, based on various news reports, there are problems and
19 inconveniences being encountered by domestic and international passengers
20 departing from and arriving at our airports, such as but not limited to long waiting
21 time, long lines in the immigration, flight delays, and even the lack of resting areas;

22
23 **WHEREAS**, according to the article: "*The Philippine Tourism Sector Amid the*
24 *Pandemic: Developments and Prospects*" by Kristhel Anne M. Caynila, et. al.,
25 published in the Economic Newsletter of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (No. 22-02,
26 May 2022), the tourism sector strongly felt the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in
27 2020, as our country imposed travel restrictions and measures as early as January of
28 that year, to curb the spread of the virus. Tourist arrivals declined to one million and

1 five hundred thousand (1,500,000) in 2020 from the eight million and three hundred
2 thousand (8,300,000) tourists recorded in 2019;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the DOT first focused on the recovery of the tourism sector by
5 promoting domestic travel, thereby forecasting that domestic travel demand may
6 return to ninety percent (90%) of the 2019 level in 2024 at the latest. It also has
7 projected that foreign tourists arriving in our country will reach between two (2)
8 million and five (5) million by the end of 2022;

9
10 **WHEREAS**, with the country opening its borders to international tourists, it
11 was reported in the article "*The Philippines reaches 2022 target foreign visitors*
12 *arrivals*" published in *traveldailymedia.com* that DOT Secretary Christina Frasco
13 announced that foreign tourist arrivals in the country reached one million seven
14 hundred thousand and seven ninety-one (1,767,791) as of October 17, 2022,
15 exceeding the one million and seven hundred thousand (1,700,000) visitors for 2022
16 projected by the DOT prior to June 30, 2022;

17
18 **WHEREAS**, in the news article "*NAIA ranked 3rd 'most stressful airport' in*
19 *Asia, Oceania — study*" published in *Philstar.com* on November 26, 2022, it was
20 reported that the Ninoy Aquino International Airport was listed as among the most
21 stressful airports in Asia and Oceania, according to data collected by travel blog
22 Hawaiian Islands;

23
24 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative for the Senate to conduct an inquiry, in aid of
25 legislation, on the current capacity of our airports to ensure that our airports are
26 equipped to accommodate the influx of passengers, as well as to come up with
27 measures to help realize the country's target number of international visitors and
28 domestic travelers;

29
30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**,
31 that the Senate of the Philippines directs the Committee on Tourism to inquire, in aid
32 of legislation, into the current capacity of our airports to receive influx of travelers
33 and tourists as our country reopens its borders for tourism;

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY